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13 JULY 1982

SOVIET AIRBORNE FORCES EQUIPMENT UPGRADE
TANRYKULULAR USSR

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1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: FIRST IDENTIFICATION OF BMD VARIANTS AND AN AIRDROPPABLE FUEL SERVICE VEHICLE IN A SOVIET AIRBORNE DIVISION WITHIN THE USSR.

2. (S/D) REMARKS: THE BMD M-1981/2, BMD M-1979, AND A NEW GAZ-66B AIRDROPPABLE FUEL SERVICE VEHICLE WERE CONFIRMED IN THE 104TH GUARDS AIRBORNE DIVISION (GAD) THIS IS THE 25X1
FIRST IDENTIFICATION OF EITHER MODIFIED BMD IN A SOVIET AIRBORNE DIVISION IN THE USSR, AND THE FIRST IDENTIFICATION ON SATELLITE IMAGERY OF THE GAZ-66B FUEL SERVICE VEHICLE. EQUIPMENT AT TANRYKULULAR ARMY BKS AL 1 INCLUDES FIVE BMD M-1981/2, ONE BMD M-1979, AND ONE GAZ-66B AIRDROPPABLE FUEL SERVICE VEHICLE. IN ADDITION, THREE BMD M-1979 AND ONE PROBABLE BMD M-1979 WERE AT KIROVABAD ARMY BKS NW AL 3 25X1
TANRYKULULAR IS THE 104TH GAD TRAINING BASE AND 25X1
KIROVABAD AL 3 HOUSES AN AIRBORNE REGIMENT OF THE 104TH.

(S/D) THE BMD M-1981/2 IS A VARIANT OF THE STANDARD BMD USED BY SOVIET AIRBORNE FORCES. ALTHOUGH SIMILAR IN APPEARANCE TO THE STANDARD BMD, IT DIFFERS IN SEVERAL WAYS. THE M-1981/2 HAS SIX ROAD WHEELS ON EACH SIDE OF THE CHASSIS INSTEAD OF FIVE. IT HAS AN APPROXIMATELY TWO-MAN TURRET 25X1
INSTEAD OF A ONE-MAN TURRET. THE MAIN WEAPON 25X1
IS LONGER THAN THE 73MM SMOOTH-BORE GUN ON THE STANDARD BMD. THE BMD M-1981/2 WAS FIRST IDENTIFIED AT RIGA TRAINING AREA 1 IN THE BALTIC MILITARY DISTRICT (MD) IN MARCH 25X1
1981. IT WAS LATER IDENTIFIED WITH THE AIR ASSAULT UNIT AT VLADIMIR VOLYNSKIY HQ GMRD/ARMY BKS AL 1/TA 1 25X1
IN THE CARPATHIAN MD AND WITH SOVIET AIRBORNE FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN AT KABUL INTERNATIONAL AIRFIELD AND 25X1
BAGRAM AIRFIELD 25X1

(S/D) THE BMD M-1979 HAS THE SAME SIX ROAD-WHEEL CHASSIS AS THE M-1981/2, BUT DOES NOT HAVE A TURRET OR GUN. IT HAS BEEN SEEN WITH THE SOVIET AIRBORNE FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN AND WITH THE AIR ASSUALT UNITS WITHIN THE USSR SINCE EARLY 1980.

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WARNING NOTICE
Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved

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3. (S) COORDINATES 40-44-02N 046-51-45E.

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